

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 IO-10 NEA-09 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7625

INFO AMEBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

CINCUNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 1567

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PINS, GR

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS 37 OFFICERS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH
MILITARY CONSPIRACY

REF ATHENS 1541

1. LATE AFTERNOON FEB 25 GOVERNMENT ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENT
VERIFYING THAT 37 MILITARY OFFICERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN
CONNECTION MILITARY CONSPIRACY DETECTED PREVIOUS DAY.
SEPARATE MSG THROUGH DEFATT CHANNELS WILL PROVIDE FULL
LISTING OF NAMES AND RELEVANT DATA. RANKS RANGE FROM
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MAJOR GENERAL TO LIEUTENANT.

2. STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT ARRESTED OFFICERS ARE ACCUSED OF INCITING REBELLION AND RELATED CRIMES AND THAT OFFICERS INVOLVED INCLUDED THOSE ON ACTIVE SERVICE, RETIRED AND CASHIERED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT A PRELIMINARY FORMAL INVESTIGATION HAD ALREADY BEGUN AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BEFORE ITS CONCLUSION TO STATE PRECISELY WHICH OF THE 37 OFFICERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL ACTION OR WHETHER OTHERS OUTSIDE THIS NUMBER WERE INVOLVED. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS UNCOVERED AS RESULT OF CONSPIRATORIAL MEETING HELD BY A FEW OFFICERS IN LARISSA WHO WERE THEMSELVES ALSO ARRESTED.

4. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT EMPHASIZES THAT FROM AVAILABLE INFORMATION HELD BY ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP, IT IS POSSIBLE TO STATE THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS SUPPORTED ONLY BY A SMALL NUMBER OF OFFICERS. IT STRESSED THAT THE SPECIAL MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUPPOSE THAT ANY WIDER DANGER HAD TO BE FACED BUT RATHER THEY WERE TAKEN IN A PRECAUTIONARY SENSE IN ORDER TO FACE ANY EVENTUALITY AND TO FACILITATE THE LOCATION AND ARREST OF THE PARTICIPATING OFFICERS. FINALLY THE ANNOUNCEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IS IN A POSITION TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE REMAINING FIRM IN THEIR DUTIES AND THEY ARE COMPLETELY LOYAL TO THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

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